

Andrew Jackson to Willie Blount, November 11, 1812, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO WILLIE BLOUNT.

Nashville, November 11, 1812

Sir: At a period like the present when the din of war reve[r]b[e]rates from shore to shore, it is the duty of every citizen to do something for his country. with these impressions at an early period of the symtoms of approaching war, I excercised my influence with the citizens composing the soldiary of the second Division of Tennessee which I have the honor to command, to Excite them to assume a proper attitude as *americans, as soldiers* , who had important rights to protect and defend, and which had been invaded by the unhallowed and sacraligious hand of great Britain and her emisaries. Twenty seven hundred and fifty brave Tennesseens under my order, stepped forward and enlisted under the banners of their country, resolved to protect their own and their countrys right or nobly die in the glorious struggle. These brave men had chosen me to lead them to the field, and required me thro your excellency to make a tender of their and my own services to the President of the united States. This Tender was made, and the terms of its acceptance too flattering for me now to repeat. Suffice it to say, that it made us feel like americans anxiously waiting the call of our country, that we might mingle with the heroes of the day and measure our strength and courage with the enemies of our country. we did expect when called on, it would be agreable to the tender as made. permit me to remark when the tender was made, compensation was out of view, and I pledge myself it is not now taken into the account. But I feel that military Pride that I hope will go down with me to the grave when the Tender was made the Secratary of war well knew, that I had the honor to command a Division in the State of Tennessee, and as such the Tender was made

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and accepted. I have read the orders of the Secretary of war to you which you had the goodness to shew me with care and calm attention. The orders and instructions do not relate to any volunteers already tendered. The words are "should volunteers offer etc etc," and I am clear in the opinion, if the Secretary did intend to embrace the volunteers tendered by me that the order recd. by yesterdays mail, was either to exclude me from the command, or if I did command by an apparent willingness and condesension on my part to place me under the command of Genl Wilkinson. I cannot disguise my feelings. had the Secretary of war directed you to call me and my volunteers into the field, and had confined my compensation to that of seargeant or private soldier I should have been content, but he has not even daigned to name me or the brave fellows who long since have tendered their service, and enrolled themselves under the act of congress. There appears something in this thing that carries with it a sting to my feelings that I will for the present suppress. The place of destination, and the officer under which they are to be placed when the[y] reach that destination, cannot be mistaken. But Sir vi[e]wing the situation of our beloved country at present, should your Excellency believe that my personal service can promote its interest in the least degree, I will sacrifice my own feelings, and lead my brave volunteers to any point your excellency may please to order all I ask is that we may be ordered to a stage where we may partake of active service, and share the dangers and laurels of the field.

I have the honor to be with high consideration and Esteem yr excellencies mo. ob. serv.

P. S. I await your orders and instructions.